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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-fifth session
Vienna, 27 February-8 March 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Programming and co-ordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system.

4. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

5. Priority themes:

   (a) Equality: Vulnerable women, including migrant women;

   (b) Development: National, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations;

   (c) Peace: Refugee and displaced women and children.

6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session.

Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required. At past sessions, the Commission has elected, in addition to a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

In resolution 1987/21, the Economic and Social Council recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the bureau of the Commission serve for a term of office of two years.

At the thirty-fourth session, the representative of the German Democratic Republic was elected Chairman of the Commission for the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions. At the resumed second regular session of the Economic and Social Council of 1990, the President of the Council brought to the attention of the members of the Council and its subsidiary and related bodies, a note (E/1990/120) concerning the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990; as from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany will act in the United Nations under the designation "Germany". Accordingly, pursuant to rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will be required to elect a Chairman for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission. The remaining officers elected at the thirty-fourth session will continue to serve in their capacities during the thirty-fifth session.

The membership of the Commission in 1991 is given in the annex to the present document.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1990/214. The annotations to the provisional agenda set forth below take into account those resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session that are relevant to the work of the Commission.

Item 3. Programming and co-ordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system

Programme matters

Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General providing information on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

The Commission will also have before it the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session (A/45/6/Rev.1) and the part of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination thereon (see A/45/16 (Parts I and II)).

Future of the Trust Fund for the advancement of women

In resolution 1989/30, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the future of the Trust Fund to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session. The Council decided that the Trust Fund should be continued for the biennium 1990-1991 under the terms of reference set out in Council resolution 1988/18, section II, paragraph 2. During the current biennium, the purpose of the Fund will be to facilitate global exchange of information, enhance the preparation of the work of the Commission regarding priority themes and disseminate the results of its discussions. Also in resolution 1989/30, the Council urged the Secretary-General to improve collaboration with the specialized agencies and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, as required. The report of the Secretary-General on the future of the Trust Fund is before the Commission.

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

In resolution 1990/3, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the information in his annual report on progress achieved and future strategies to implement action programmes on the status of women in the Secretariat and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council was considered by the General Assembly under the item concerning the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session the annual report, together with an update of the information contained therein.

In resolution 45/125, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to be submitted to the General Assembly and the Commission an action programme for the advancement of women in the Secretariat for the period 1991-1995, further to the request contained in paragraph 5 of its resolution 44/75 of 8 December 1989, which should also include a comprehensive evaluation and analysis by the Secretariat of the main obstacles to the improvement of the status of women in the Organization and should propose solutions to overcome those

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obstacles. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that his annual report on progress achieved and future strategies to implement action programmes on the status of women in the Secretariat and the relevant mandates adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the recommendations of the Steering Committee for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat are submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session and to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

The report of the Secretary-General containing the updated information will be before the Commission. The annual report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session will be made available for information.

Co-ordination matters

Implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development

In resolution 1989/105, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to report to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, biennially in odd-numbered years beginning in 1991, on the extent to which the system-wide medium-term plan was incorporated into the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system. The report will be before the Commission for comment.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the future of the Trust Fund for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/1991/5)

Report of the Secretary-General containing updated information on the status of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/1991/)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1991/)

Note by Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of women in the Secretariat (A/45/548)

Relevant portions of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its thirtieth session (A/45/16 (Parts I and II))

Item 4. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Proposals for the preparation and convening of the world conference on women in 1995

In resolution 1990/12, the Economic and Social Council recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995 and requested the Commission, as the preparatory body, to include preparations for the conference in its regular work programme during the period 1991-1995. The Council requested the Secretary-General to include the relevant costs of preparing and convening the world conference in the programme budget of the Organization for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 within the respective budgetary limits. The proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993, submitted under item 3 above, has taken that request into account. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to make proposals on the preparation and convening of the world conference for submission to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session.

In resolution 45/129, the General Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 and requested that the Commission act as the preparatory body for the world conference.

In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Commission, as the preparatory body for the world conference, to decide on the venue of the conference, not later than 1992, taking into account that preference should be given to those regions that have not yet hosted a world conference on women.

The Assembly also requested the Commission, in deciding on the preparations for documentation for the conference, to pay attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/9 concerning the second report on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The Assembly further requested the Commission to focus the agenda of the world conference in 1995 on the Forward-looking Strategies as well as on the recommendations and conclusions of the first review and appraisal.

The Assembly further requested the Commission to ask the Secretary-General to appoint, not later than 1992, the Secretary-General of the conference.

The report of the Secretary-General on proposals for the preparation and convening of the world conference on women in 1995 will be before the Commission.

Preparations for the interregional consultation on women in public life

By decision 1989/129, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, made in its resolution 33/2 of 6 April 1989, that the Council convene in 1991 a high-level interregional consultation on women in public life, to be financed from voluntary and other contributions. The General Assembly, in resolution 44/77, endorsed the convening of the consultation.

By resolution 45/127, the General Assembly decided that the consultation on women in public life should be an intergovernmental meeting. It urged all Governments to participate actively in the consultation and for that purpose to designate as participants women who currently held leadership positions in government and national institutions and organizations or were considered to have the potential for high public office. The Assembly invited Governments and national institutions and organizations to provide extrabudgetary resources to facilitate preparations for the consultation, especially for the participation of least developed countries and for the dissemination in the mass media of information about the consultation. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to transmit the conclusions of the consultation in a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

The report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the consultation will be before the Commission.

Action to increase awareness of the slow progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

The review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women conducted by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session showed that progress in achieving the goals of the Strategies was slow. In resolution 1990/14, the Council requested the Secretary-General to carry out, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, a world-wide education campaign to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered to implement the Strategies, and to report to the Council at its first regular session of 1991, through the Commission, on the implementation of that resolution. The report of the Secretary-General will be before the Commission.

Statistical indicators relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

In resolution 1988/22, the Economic and Social Council decided that, for the purpose of monitoring progress at the national level, the Secretary-General should, within existing resources, make available a summary compilation of available statistical indicators relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and submit a progress report on national reporting of statistics and indicators on women to the Commission in odd-numbered years. The first report on the subject (E/CN.6/1989/2) was submitted in 1989. The second report of the Secretary-General will be before the Commission.

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in regard to women and children under apartheid

In resolution 1990/13, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session a report on the progress made in achieving the goals set out in that resolution to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies with regard to women and children living under apartheid and to progress towards the implementation of all provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa,

adopted by the General Assembly in resolution S-16/1. The report of the Secretary-General will be before the Commission.

Situation of Palestinian women

In resolution 1990/11, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the experts on the status of women continued to monitor and further investigate the situation of Palestinian women and children inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories, and that they submitted their report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the mission of experts undertaken in 1989 (E/CN.6/1990/10), which was submitted to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session. A note by the Secretary-General will be before the Commission.

International Year of the Family

In resolution 45/133, the General Assembly, recalling its resolution 44/82, in which it proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family, requested the Commission for Social Development to give priority consideration at its session in 1991 to the draft programme for the Year and requested it to inform the Commission on the Status of Women on the preparations for the year. An extract on the relevant chapter of the report of the Commission for Social Development will be made available to the Commission.

Communications concerning the status of women

In resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission on the Status of Women would handle communications relating to the status of women. In that resolution, as amended by Council resolution 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, the Council requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication. In resolution 1983/27, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, beginning at its thirtieth session, a report on confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women, which should include communications received under Council resolutions 76 (V) and 304 I (XI), including the comments of Governments thereon, if any, and communications received by the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other United Nations bodies, together with information on action that may have been taken following the receipt of such communications; and to solicit the co-operation of the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other United Nations bodies in compiling the above-mentioned report.

In paragraph 4 of resolution 1983/27, the Council authorized the Commission on the Status of Women henceforth to appoint a working group consisting of not more than five of its members, selected with due regard for geographical distribution, to meet in closed meetings during each session of the Commission to perform the following functions:

"(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

"(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which will indicate the categories in which communications are most frequently submitted to the Commission."

In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to examine the report of the working group and to avoid duplication of the work undertaken by other organs of the Council, the Commission being, in that respect, empowered only to make recommendations to the Council, which should then decide what action might appropriately be taken on the emerging trends and patterns of communications. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Council decided that all actions envisaged in the implementation of that resolution by the Commission on the Status of Women should remain confidential until such time as the Commission might decide to make recommendations to the Council.

In resolution 1990/5 on physical violence against detained women that is specific to their sex, the Council requested the Commission to continue to consider communications relating to the status of women and to make recommendations thereon to the Council, if necessary.

Existing mechanisms for communications concerning the status of women

In resolution 1990/8, the Economic and Social Council, having recognized that the mandate of the Commission to consider communications on the status of women was crucial to its central role in monitoring and formulating recommendations furthering the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and furthered its ability to fulfil other aspects of its mandate regarding the elimination of discrimination against women, requested the Secretary-General to examine, in consultation with Governments, the existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women, in order to ensure that such communications received effective and appropriately co-ordinated consideration in view of the role of communications in the work of the Commission on the elimination of discrimination against women and to report thereon to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session. The report of the Secretary-General will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for the preparation and convening of the world conference on women in 1995 (E/CN.6/1991/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for interregional consultation on women in public life (E/CN.6/1991/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on action to increase awareness of the slow progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1991/12)

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical indicators relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1991/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation and monitoring of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in regard to women and children under apartheid (E/CN.6/1991/8)

Note by the Secretary-General on the situation of Palestinian women (E/CN.6/1991/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on existing mechanisms for communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/1991/10)

Documentation for information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its ninth session (A/45/38)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/45/426)

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (A/45/489)

Item 5. Priority themes

(a) Equality: Vulnerable women, including migrant women

(b) Development: National, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations

(c) Peace: Refugee and displaced women and children

In resolution 1987/22 on measures to strengthen the role and functions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council decided to structure the agenda for future sessions of the Commission around its functions, namely programming, co-ordination, monitoring and policy development.

In resolution 1987/24, the Council decided that the work of the Commission in relation to the priority themes should be closely related to the relevant provisions of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and of other policy documents, the programmes elaborated in the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and the relevant chapters of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Nairobi

Forward-looking Strategies and lasting improvement in the situation of women. The Council also decided that the recommendations of the Commission should be addressed, at the national level, primarily to Governments, but also to non-governmental organizations - in particular women's groups - and research institutions, and, at the regional and internationals levels, to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research institutions.

Also in resolution 1987/24, the Council recommended that, when resources were available, expert group meetings be convened to assist in the preparation of the work of the Commission on priority themes. For the present session of the Commission, a seminar on refugee and displaced women and children (Vienna, 2-6 July 1990), a seminar on disabled women (Vienna, 20-24 August 1990) and an expert group meeting on vulnerable women, with specific emphasis on female-headed households (Vienna, 26-30 November 1990) were organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women. Additional material for the report on vulnerable women was drawn from a seminar on international female migrants (San Miniato, Italy, 27-30 March 1990), an international symposium on the integration of young people into society (Toledo, Spain, 4-8 June 1990) and an international conference on aging populations in the context of the family (Kitakyushu, Japan, 15-19 October 1990). The results of the expert group meetings have been incorporated into the appropriate reports.

In resolution 45/129, the General Assembly requested the Commission, when considering the priority theme under "development" during its thirty-fifth session and subsequent sessions, to ensure its early contribution to the work of the international meeting on population to be held in 1994 and to address the role of technologies in the development of developing countries.

In the same resolution, the Assembly also urged the Commission, the relevant organizations of the United Nations and Governments to give particular attention to refugee women and children and migrant women, taking into account their contribution to the social, economic and political fields and the urgent need to avoid all kinds of discrimination against them.

In resolution 45/106 on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities, the General Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider under the priority theme "development" the positive contributions and specific roles of elderly women in the development of their societies.

The reports of the Secretary-General on the priority themes will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on vulnerable women, including migrant women (E/CN.6/1991/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on national, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations (E/CN.6/1991/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on refugee and displaced women and children (E/CN.6/1991/4)

Item 6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984 (LVII), the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-sixth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

In resolution 1979/41, the Council decided that the provisional agenda for its subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, should be submitted to the Council for review, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency between the documentation of those bodies and the overall documentation requested by the Council and other subsidiary bodies and greater consistency between the request for documentation and the medium-term plan and the programme budget.

In resolution 1987/24 and decision 1990/213, the Council endorsed the following priority themes for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission:

(a) Equality: Elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination against women;

(b) Development: Integration of women in the process of development;

Women and the environment;

(c) Peace: Equal participation in all efforts to promote international co-operation, peace and disarmament.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed work programme required to prepare for the in-depth consideration of the priority themes scheduled for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN 1991

	Term expires on 31 December
Austria	1992
Bahamas	1993
Bangladesh	1994
Brazil	1992
Bulgaria	1994
Burkina Faso	1991
Canada	1992
China	1991
Colombia	1992
Costa Rica	1991
Côte d'Ivoire	1994
Cuba	1991
Cyprus	1993
Ecuador	1993
Egypt	1993
France	1992
Ghana	1993
Guatemala	1991
India	1993
Indonesia	1993
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1993
Italy	1994
Jamaica	1993
Japan	1992
Lesotho	1991
Malaysia	1993
Mexico	1994
Morocco	1992
Netherlands	1994
Nigeria	1993
Pakistan	1991
Philippines	1994
Poland	1992
Rwanda	1994
Sudan	1992
Sweden	1991
Thailand	1992
Turkey	1991
Uganda	1993

	Term expires on 31 December
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic a/	1991
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	1994
United Republic of Tanzania	1992
United States of America	1994
Zaire	1994
Zimbabwe	1993

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a/ Elected at the 38th meeting, on 9 November 1990, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1991 to fill the seat vacated by the German Democratic Republic as a result of its accession to the Federal Republic of Germany on 3 October 1990.